

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:10 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2006, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Cook, Smoot, Taniguchi, and  
Chairperson McGee.  
Absent: Commissioners Robbins and Tookey.  
Also Present: Recreation Services Administrator Jones and  
Administrative Analyst Orpe.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cook moved to grant excused absences to Commissioners Tookey and Robbins for the April 12, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Administrative Analyst Orpe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Taniguchi moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2006**

Deferred to the May 10, 2006 Commission meeting.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6A. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL TREE DEDICATION REPORT**

Recreation Services Administrator Jones presented the annual Living Tree Dedication program for reporting period January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005. He discussed the purpose of the program and noted that a total of 241 trees have been planted at various parks and City properties since the program's inception.

**6B. APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NON-SMOKING AT TORRANCE BEACH**

Recreation Services Administrator Jones reported that the City Attorney's Office advised that the Commission's request for staff to prepare a Letter of Support to prohibit smoking on Torrance Beach was appropriate and within its purview.

Chairperson McGee indicated that he would support the Commission's recommendation because smoking would be allowed in the parking lots and roadways.

Responding to Commissioner Smoot's inquiry, Recreation Services Administrator Jones stated that a majority vote of Commissioners would be sufficient for the chair to sign the letter of support.

Commissioner Taniguchi noted minor grammatical errors on the Letter of Support.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Smoot moved to approve and accept the Letter of Support as submitted to prohibit smoking on any public beach within the City of Torrance, exclusive of parking lots and roadways. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Robbins and Tookey).

The signed Letter of Support was presented to Betty Battenberg, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/South Bay.

**6C. 2006 NOMINATION FOR ANNUAL PARKS & RECREATION AWARDS**

Recreation Services Administrator Jones reported that the Annual Awards Dinner will be held on July 19, 2006 and requested that Commissioners seek nominations for individuals, organizations, and staff members for their contributions toward enhancing the recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities available to Torrance residents. He noted that last year's list of award nominees was included in the agenda material.

**6D. APPOINTMENT OF FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Chairperson McGee asked for a volunteer to fill the vacancy on the Facilities Committee and reviewed current appointments on the Commission's standing committees.

The Commission directed staff to contact Commissioners absent at this meeting to determine their interest in filling the vacancy, with an update to be provided at the May Commission meeting.

**7. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**7A. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **7B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Taniguchi reported that the Facilities Committee met on April 12, 2006 to discuss the Annual Award Dinner, noting that the theme would be Hawaiian.

Chairperson McGee reported that the Pueblo Park community has received an estimate for conceptual improvements and that staff would bring the item back to the full Commission at a future meeting for its consideration.

## **7C. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Smoot stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission would attend the July 10, 2006 Library Commission meeting to explore joint programming opportunities, with an agenda to be prepared by staff.

## **8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY**

### **8A. PARK SERVICES DIVISION**

Responding to Commissioner Smoot's observation regarding an incident at Columbia Park, Recreation Services Administrator Jones stated that the Police Department received 1,155 calls to service City parks last year. He advised that staff was preparing a program modification sheet asking to promote a senior Park Ranger to a full time Program Coordinator position.

### **8B. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION**

Recreation Services Administrator Jones reported that staff was launching into their spring programming and gearing up for summer.

In response to Chairperson McGee's inquires, he stated that the Division has reached approximately 50% of projected revenue expectations for the Batting Cages, noting that it was still the front side of Little League season. He advised that the Skateboard Park was open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, averaging 26 skaters per session.

### **8C. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

Administrative Analyst Orpe reported that there were 4,254 registrations for spring programs and classes and briefly discussed facility bookings. He noted that Summer Seasons would be mailed out the end of April.

Chairperson McGee requested that staff provide a comparison of this year's and last year's figures on enrollments and bookings.

## **9. ORALS**

**9A.** Staff and Commissioners expressed their sadness at the passing of Commissioner Richard Perkins and offered their condolences to his family.

**9B.** Torrance Youth Council members Ashley Hunt and Maria Turcios, Torrance High School, shared information about the Beat the Odds scholarship program, Pancake Breakfast, Spring Boutique, Youth Forum, and Junior Statesmen of America (JSA).

**9C.** Commissioner Taniguchi stated that she enjoyed her visit to the tree house at Wilson Park.

**9D.** Chairperson McGee stated that he attended the tree house dedication ceremony and asked that this meeting be adjourned in memory of Dick Perkins.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 7:48 p.m., Commissioner Smoot moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to May 10, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taniguchi and, hearing no objection, Chairperson McGee so ordered.

**Adjourned in memory of  
Richard Perkins**

Approved as Amended May 10, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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